

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 63

Topic: SOCIAL MEDIA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

Has the department instituted any changes to policies or protocols since last estimates that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what changes have been put in place. Why were these changes put in place?

Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time these sites are most accessed

Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

Answer:

ASIC continues to maintain its policy of restricting the use of online social media (Youtube, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter), and other selected online discussion forums and blogs that are not considered related to ASIC's business.

However since last estimates, a small number of ASIC's business units are either testing, or are now using, social media (in particular Twitter accounts) as a channel of communication to external stakeholders. Staff from these business units who have been granted an exemption from the access policy (around 81 staff which equates to less than 4%) have access to social media forums during business hours.

Since ASIC has been monitoring the usage from 1 January 2011, a total of approximately 3000 hours has been spent on social media sites, primarily Facebook and Youtube. The time of day that it is used can vary but equates to approximately 40 minutes per person per day.